
From: HJR153
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2004 8:36 AM
To: HJR153
Subject: HJR153 - Charles L. Weber, Jr.

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Utility Type: all

Company Name: Dominion Virginia Power, Sprint, Adelphia

Comments: All utility lines should be placed underground. The program to do so should be phased over time with local governments, working with the utility companies, to establish the priorities. Benefits include safety and aesthetics, both of which contribute to quality of life and ultimately economic development and revitalization. I have personally witnessed three downed power lines in the span of a few years here. In each case, someone could easily have been killed or seriously injured.

Initial cost has been cited as the principal impediment to proceeding with a plan to place utilities underground. It seems to me that this has become more an excuse than a reason. It is my understanding that the technology of placing lines underground has improved and the costs have declined over the past few years. Allowing utility companies to raise rates to absorb this cost of doing business seems the most efficient and effective way to get the job done. Competition for utility franchises with full knowledge of the requirement to proceed with an undergrounding plan might also help in certain locations to keep initial costs down.

We are proceeding into the 21st century with a utility infrastructure which was put in place at the turn of the 20th century. I think it is time to make something happen.